

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Reps Giuliano, Spallone: State House Okays Motorboat Noise Bill**



A measure that would address complaints voiced by many shoreline residents about motorboat noise was approved Thursday by the state House of Representatives, state Representatives Marilyn Giuliano, R-23<sup>rd</sup> District, and James F. Spallone, D-36<sup>th</sup> District, who cosponsored the legislation (House Bill 5615)

announced today.

The bill would increase the fine for failing to comply with a marine enforcement officer's request to submit to a noise test. The bill would increase the fine for failing to submit one's motorboat to an on-site noise test from between \$100 and \$500 to between \$350 and \$550 for a first offense and between \$450 and \$650 for each subsequent offense, the legislators said.

Under current law, the fine for failing to submit to the noise test is set at \$170. Exceeding the permitted noise level is set at \$220. Because the fine for failing to submit to a noise test is less than the fine for violating the permitted noise level, many boaters simply choose not to take the test and pay the less expensive fine, the legislators said.

"If the General Assembly enacts this legislation, it will make boat trips along the shoreline or on the Connecticut River and other inland waterways more pleasant for everyone," Representative Giuliano said. "Excessive motorboat noise is usually an indication of excessive speed as well. This measure will help enhance safety on the water for boaters, water skiers and swimmers and reduce noise pollution during the summer months."

"The bill will remove the incentive for refusing the test," Representative Spallone said. "Our hope is that this will make the noise law more effective, and reduce the nuisance of extremely loud motors on our waters. Constituents told us of roaring boats rattling windows on waterside homes or disturbing a quiet afternoon on the Connecticut River."

The measure was sent to the Senate for final legislative approval. It would take effect July 1, 2005.

Representatives Giuliano and Spallone originally proposed the measure during the 2004 legislative session. Although the House approved the bill, the state Senate was unable to

act on it before the General Assembly's statutory adjournment date and the measure failed.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District includes the towns of Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and coastal Westbrook, while the 36<sup>th</sup> includes Chester, Deep River, Essex and Haddam.